

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAM-01 OMB-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 /089 W

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R 211620Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3567

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BANJUL BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 0960

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DAKAR 0394

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CV, US, URA, AO

SUBJ: PEREIRA REAFFIRMS DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH US AND
DENIES THAT SOVIET RESUPPLY FLIGHTS TO ANGOLA ARE TRANSITING
CAPE VERDE.

1. SUMMARY: CAPE VERDE CHARGE ON JAN 19 RELAYED PRESIDENT
PEREIRA'S REAFFIRMATION OF HIS DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH
US AND ALSO CONVEYED DENIAL THAT SOVIET AIRCRAFT IN ANGOLAN
MILITARY AIRLIFT ARE TRANSITING ISLAND OF SAL. HE SAID SOUTH
AFRICAN AIRWAYS COULD VERIFY THIS SINCE IT WAS CARRIER SERVING
CAPE VERDE WITH MOST FREQUENCIES, DEMONSTRATING PRAGMATIC
ORIENTATION OF CAPE VERDE FOREIGN POLICY. CAPE VERDE HAS
ALSO ISSUED COMMUNIQUE DENYING ROLE IN SOVIET AIRLIFT. CAPE
VERDE'S POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR MPLA RESTED ON FRATERNAL PAIGC-
MPLA RELATIONS, FNLA/UNITA "ATROCITIES," INITIAL INTERVENTION
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BY ZAIRE, AND UNITA'S "UNTHINKABLE" ALLIANCE WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

PEREIRA'S COMMUNICATION IS LATEST IN SERIES OF WARM MESSAGES
SEEKING COOPERATIVE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH US. AMBASSADOR
PLANS TO RETURN CHARGE'S CALL SHORTLY. END SUMMARY.

2. CHARGE GOMES OF CAPE VERDE EMBASSY IN DAKAR CALLED ON
AMBASSADOR JAN 19. HE SAID HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT PEREIRA WHO HAD ASKED THAT TWO MESSAGES BE PASSED TO
USG. FIRST MATTER CONCERNED BILATERAL RELATIONS. CAPE VERDE
GOVERNMENT (GOCV) WANTED TO ASSURE USG THAT IT SINCERELY DESIRED
CLOSE COOPERATION IN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS. GOMES SAID HE WANTED
TO CORRECT ANY MISINTERPRETATION OF GOCV POSITION WHICH PRESS
AND OTHER SOURCES MAY HAVE GIVEN. PRESENCE OF EMIGREE CAPE
VERDIAN COMMUNITY IN AMERICA PROVIDED BASIS FOR "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP"

BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS. GOMES STRESSED THAT GOCV WISHED TO HAVE
GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES, BUT ESPECIALLY US BECAUSE OF
THIS RELATIONSHIP. WHILE US HAD NOT HELPED PAIGC DURING
INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE, IT HAD BEEN ONE OF FIRST TO OFFER
WELCOME ASSISTANCE IN TIME OF NEED AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

3. SECONDLY, WITH RESPECT TO ANGOLA, GOMES SAID THAT REPORTS
IN PRESS THAT SOVIETS WERE USING CAPE VERDE AS REFUELING BASE
IN SUPPORT OF MILITARY AIRLIFT TO ANGOLA WERE TOTAL
FABRICATION. HE SAID GOCV HAD POLICY OF NEUTRALITY WITH RESPECT TO
MILITARY ASSISTANCE. HE WAS CERTAIN THAT THE US HAD NECESSARY
MEANS TO VERIFY THIS. IF NOT, WE COULD CHECK WITH SOUTH AFRICANS
WHOSE NATIONAL AIRWAYS FLEW INTO CAPE VERDE THREE TIMES DAILY
SEVEN DAYS A WEEK--MOST FREQUENT SERVICE BY ANY INTERNATIONAL
CARRIER INCLUDING TAP. GOMES SAID THIS WAS STRICTLY COMMERCIAL
AGREEMENT BUT IT DEMONSTRATED PRAGMATIC APPROACH GOCV TAKING TO
FOREIGN POLICY. GOMES SAID US SHOULDN'T FEAR THAT SOVIETS WOULD
ESTABLISH AIR OR SEA BASE ON CAPE VERDE AS HIS GOVERNMENT
WOULD NOT ALLOW ANYONE TO ESTABLISH BASES. HAVING FOUGHT FOR

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R 211620Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
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INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 DAKAR 0394

ITS INDEPENDENCE, CAPE VERDE WOULD MAINTAIN IT. HOWEVER, ALL COUNTRIES WHICH WISHED TO USE CAPE VERDE FACILITIES FOR NON-MILITARY PURPOSES WOULD BE WELCOMED IF THEY RESPECTED COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE. HE SAID GOCV HOPES TO DEVELOP OPEN DOOR FOREIGN POLICY. ITS ORIENTATION WOULD BE ONE OF "NEUTRALITY" (SIC), WHICH HE SAID MEANT GOCV WOULD TAKE SIDES ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS BUT WOULD NOT ALIGN ITSELF WITH ANY BLOC.

4. GOMES CITED PAIGC'S FRATERNAL RELATIONSHIP WITH MPLA AND CALLED GOCV'S CONTINUED SUPPORT OF MPLA MATTER OF PRINCIPLE. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN 50,000 CAPE VERDIANS IN ANGOLA BEFORE INDEPENDENCE; MOST OF THOSE RETURNING HOME WHO HAD BEEN INTERVIEWED HAD REPORTED ATROCITIES BY FNLA AND UNITA (THOUGH GOMES ACKNOWLEDGED MPLA MIGHT BE GUILTY OF SAME CHARGE). GOCV SAW REAL PROBLEMS IN ANGOLA AS SOUTH AFRICA AND ZAIRE. GOMES DISTINGUISHED UNITA'S "UNTHINKABLE" ACCEPTANCE
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OF SOUTH AFRICAN HELP FROM MPLA'S RELIANCE ON SOVIETS (WHICH, IN VIEW OF SUPPORT DURING INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE, WAS NOTHING NEW) AND ON CUBANS (WHO WERE "VOLUNTEERS."). FINALLY, GOMES ARGUED, IT WAS REALLY OUTSIDE INTERVENTION BY ZAIRE WHICH PRECIPITATED STEP-UP IN SOVIET ROLE AND OTHER EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE. HE EXPRESSED DISTRUST OF MOBUTU WHICH, HE SAID, STEMMED FROM MOBUTU'S HAVING MET WITH SPINOLA TO WORK OUT DEAL ON CABINDA. HE SAID GOCV BELIEVED FOREIGN POWERS SHOULD GET OUT OF ANGOLA IN ORDER IN WHICH THEY CAME IN, BEGINNING WITH ZAIRE, FOLLOWED BY EVERYONE ELSE.

5. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT OF US VIEWS ON ANGOLA, GOMES ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GOCV COULD SUPPORT GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY IF PARTIES IN ANGOLA WERE TO GET TOGETHER AND AGREED IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR GOCV TO EXCHANGE VIEWS

ON ANGOLA WITH SUCH COUNTRIES AS SENEGAL AND GAMBIA, BUT HE REPEATED THAT GOCV WAS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO MPLA AS POLITICAL MATTER AND ON PRINCIPLE.

6. GOMES' DENIAL WITH RESPECT TO SOVIET AIRLIFT ALLEGATION FOLLOWS RELEASE OF COMMUNIQUE TO DAKAR PRESS JAN 9 BY HIS EMBASSY CONCERNING AFP STORY FROM JOHANNESBURG WHICH SPOKE OF "VERITABLE AIR BRIDGE" BETWEEN ODESSA AND LUANDA FOR RESUPPLYING MPLA WITH "STOP AT SAL ISLAND (CAPE VERDE) CONTROLLED BY PRO-MARXIST PAIGC." AS REPORTED IN LOCAL PRESS, COMMUNIQUE CONTAINED STATEMENT BY GOCV SPOKESMAN DENYING "FALSE AND TENDENTIOUS" ALLEGATION, WHICH HE SAID DIVERTED ATTENTION FROM TRUE REASON FOR GOCV'S SUPPORT FOR MPLA. IT CONCLUDED THAT "MPLA IS MOVEMENT WHICH EMBODIES AND DEFENDS TRUE INTERESTS OF ANGOLAN PEOPLE IN THEIR FIGHT FOR REAL AND COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE."

7. COMMENT: SINCE CONCLUSION OF 30TH UNGA, PRESIDENT PEREIRA HAS TAKEN CONSIDERABLE PAINS TO CONVEY CLEAR SIGNAL TO US OF HIS COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPING FRIENDLY BILATERAL RELATIONS. PRIOR TO CURRENT APPROACH, PEREIRA HAD EXPRESSED SIMILAR SENTIMENTS IN LETTERS TO PRESIDENT FORD DELIVERED TO EMBASSY DEC 9 (DAKAR 7005) AND JAN 6 (DAKAR 0169). TONE OF MESSAGES HAS BEEN NOTABLY WARM, WITH PEREIRA GOING SO FAR IN DEC LETTER AS TO SUGGEST CAPE VERDIAN PARTICIPATION IN US BICENTENNIAL AS "SMALL HOMAGE" TO "GENEROUS AMERICAN PEOPLE." I WILL BE SEEKING APPOINTMENT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAY RETURN CALL ON GOMES VERY SHORTLY, AND WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SOONEST ANY US REACTION TO GOCV COMMUNICATIONS OR ANY INSTRUCTIONS DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PROVIDE ON ANGOLA OR OTHER SUBJECTS.
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